

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*, a probable new breeding bird on Sal, Cape Verde Islands

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Fauvette à lunettes *Sylvia conspicillata*, une nouvelle espèce nicheuse probable à Sal, îles du Cap Vert. Les 21–22 novembre 2015, 11 Fauvettes à lunettes *Sylvia conspicillata*, sept mâles et quatre femelles, ont été observées à Sal, îles du Cap Vert. Leur comportement et la période laissent penser, avec une forte probabilité, que l'espèce niche sur l'île sur laquelle elle n'avait jamais été signalée.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* is a species of semi-arid environments of north-west Africa, south-west Europe, the Middle East and parts of Egypt (Baker 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998). In the Cape Verde Islands it is known to breed on all islands except Sal and Santa Luzia (Hazevoet 1995, Barone *et al.* 2000, Barone 2005) and to be locally common except on São Vicente, where it is scarce (Hazevoet 1995). Barone & Delgado (1999) relate its absence on Sal to the scarce vegetation and shrub cover, notwithstanding some apparently suitable areas.

On 21 November 2015, between 08.00 and 11.00 hrs, I observed a pair of Spectacled Warblers among the acacias *Prosopis juliflora* south-east of Ribeira de Madama lagoon ($16^{\circ}41'22.09''N$

$22^{\circ}55'52.79''W$). At least two other males were calling north of the site ($16^{\circ}41'44.37''N$ $16^{\circ}56'14.53''W$). During the afternoon of 22 November, I located at least seven additional individuals along the road linking Amílcar Cabral Airport with the nearby windfarm ($16^{\circ}43'28.89''N$ $22^{\circ}55'53.34''W$), four males showing territorial behaviour (singing) and three females that remained close to their respective males (Figs. 1–2).

These appear to be the first records of Spectacled Warbler for Sal, suggesting the species was previously overlooked or is starting to colonise the island, perhaps from Boavista, where it is abundant (Barone & Delgado 1999). Colonisation may have been facilitated by a year of atypically



Figure 1. Pair of Spectacled Warblers *Sylvia conspicillata* showing territorial behaviour in the endemic plant *Pulicaria diffusa*, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 22 November 2015 (Juan José Ramos / Birding Canarias)

Couple de Fauvettes à lunettes *Sylvia conspicillata* affichant un comportement territorial sur un spécimen de la plante endémique *Pulicaria diffusa*, Sal, îles du Cap Vert, 22 novembre 2015 (Juan José Ramos / Birding Canarias)



Figure 2. Adult female Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* in an acacia *Prosopis juliflora*, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 22 November 2015 (Juan José Ramos / Birding Canarias)

Fauvette à lunettes *Sylvia conspicillata*, femelle adulte, sur un acacia *Prosopis juliflora*, Sal, îles du Cap Vert, 22 novembre 2015 (Juan José Ramos / Birding Canarias)

heavy rains, especially on Sal, mainly due to the effect of a tropical storm that hit the islands during August 2015. Behaviour and dates suggest the species breeds on the island, as reproduction occurs year-round except in June–July, being more frequent in September–November and February–April (de Naurois & Bergier 1986, Hazzevoet 1995). Bourne (1955) indicates that the breeding period starts in August, less than six weeks after the first rains of the summer / autumn season. Further field work should confirm the establishment of Spectacled Warbler on the island.

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